

JOHN BROWN'S RAID

Recalled by Dedication of Park
at Osawatimie, Kan.

Historic Incident of 1859 Which, Perhaps, Did More Than Anything Else Toward Precipitating the Civil War.

Osawatimie, Kan.—When former President Roosevelt stood before the gathering of Kansans and guests from other states at the dedication of the John Brown park in Osawatimie as the chief speaker, his words were listened to with more than ordinary interest by the whole nation, as well as by those within the sound of his voice. For there is yet a division of opinion about the attitude that history should take toward the man whose raid on Harper's Ferry arsenal in 1859 did more than anything else, perhaps, to precipitate the Civil war.

On the field of Osawatimie, on August 30, 1856, was fought one of the many conflicts between pro-slavery and anti-slavery men that preceded the establishment of Kansas as a free-soil state. Insignificant as the battle seems in comparison with the larger events that followed it, it was one of the sharpest engagements of the so-called border war, and has become of historic importance through the fact that John Brown, the abolitionist, hanged because of his attack on Harper's Ferry, took part in it.



John Brown.

The story of the raid on Harper's Ferry has been told so often that it may be mentioned only briefly here. Brown's final orders, given Sunday night, October 1, 1859, were to his little company of 18 men, directed that they should not take life where they could avoid it. They started out from the Kentucky farm in Maryland, five miles from Harper's Ferry, which Brown had rented, at dark and reached the town about 11 p. m. Brown himself broke open the gates of the armory and made the watchmen prisoners. He sent six of his men into the country and they brought in several prominent slave owners and their slaves. Some forty or fifty prisoners were taken from among the citizens of the town who showed opposition to the raid.

On Monday morning Brown placed his pikes in the hands of his black prisoners, and told the white prisoners that he would hold them as hostages and would exchange some of them for slaves. He tried to pacify the citizens, who numbered perhaps one thousand adults, but they formed a rifle squad, and several military companies from the surrounding country arrived in the town. Brown and his men became virtually prisoners in the engine house of the armory. Meanwhile the alarm went to the national capital, and President Buchanan sent a detachment Monday night from the Washington navy yard, under a brevet

colonel, from whom the world was to hear much. He was Robert E. Lee, the future commander-in-chief of the Confederate armies. On Tuesday morning Brown was summoned by Lee to surrender. He refused, and the marines stormed the engine house. In five minutes the fight was over. One marine was killed, Brown had received several severe sword and bay-



John Brown's Cabin.

net wounds, one of his sons was dead and another was dying, and only two of his men were unhurt. Of his total force of 22, ten were killed, five escaped and seven were captured, tried and hanged. Five of the citizens of Harper's Ferry were killed and eight were wounded.

Brown was accused of treason, conspiracy and murder, before a Virginia court, was convicted, sentenced and hanged on December 2, 1859.

FANATICISM NEARLY FATAL

Woman, Insisting on a Seven-Times Immersion, Is Almost Drowned in Self-Administered Baptism.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Insisting that she must be baptized in her own way, a woman who gave the name of Mrs. Sophie Plum, came near drowning in the presence of at least 2,000 spectators on the Delaware river banks at Gloucester. She was rescued in the nick of time by a man in a launch and afterwards revived in a nearby building. The big crowd was thoroughly thrilled by the exciting spectacle as the woman endeavored to reach a rude cross planted in the river about 20 yards from shore.

The Rev. William Pickersgill, head of the Helping Hand church, Gloucester, had announced several days before that there would be a baptism in the river. But there was some hitch in the program. Mrs. Plum was anxious for the ceremony, but she insisted that she must be immersed seven times in accord with her conceived notions of biblical injunction.

Pastor Pickersgill said he could find no authority for such a ceremony, and when he appeared before the crowd on the shore he announced that the ceremony would not take place. He had helped plant the cross in the sand with rocks about its base, when the tide was low, just as Mrs. Plum desired, but there would be no ceremony.

"Yes, there will, brother," exclaimed Mrs. Plum, who suddenly appeared in flowing white robes.

"We are not led to perform this ceremony and we shall have nothing to do with it," replied the pastor. Undaunted by the rebuff, Mrs. Plum strode into the water and made straight for the cross well out in the current. Before she could reach it she was swept off her feet and was quickly struggling for her life. Of all the thousands who saw her, Gilbert Porch saw that she was really drowning, and jumping into a launch, managed to get her ashore, where she was resuscitated.

Indianapolis.—A local retail merchant recently took advantage of an accident which happened to his store.

A runaway trolley car had crashed into his show window, wrecking it. While the crowd of people who had been attracted by the collision were still gathered about the front of the store the enterprising retailer came struggling through the wreckage and placed a large card bearing the words "All cars stop at Blanks" in a prominent place. The effect was forthcoming.

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